

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Claims 1 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. patent to Adachi et al.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the U.S. patent to Adachi et al in view of the U.S. patent to Rich.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that Claims 4-9 and 11 are allowed.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of the claims, applicants cancelled Claims 1, 2 and 22 without prejudice.

The Examiner's indication of the allowance of Claims 4-9 and 11 have been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this indication, the allowable claims have been retained as they were.

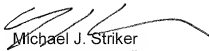
At the same time applicants added dependent Claims 23-27. These claims are identical, and the subject matter of these claims is

disclosed in the specification, in particular in the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19. Claims 23-27 depend on the independent Claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11 correspondingly. Since they share the allowable features of the independent claims from which they depend, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 23-27 should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233